



CHICAGO KINDERGARTEN COLLEGE

10 VAN BUREN STREET

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED

1. WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE CHICAGO KINDERGARTEN COLLEGE?

Ans. The applicant must not be under eighteen years of age, must possess the equivalent of a four years' high school education and be able to furnish satisfactory references.

2. WHAT EXAMINATION IS NECESSARY?

Ans. The student's eligibility can usually be determined from the application blank, which all applicants are required to fill out and return, by the school from which she has graduated, by the credential letters and the correspondence.

3. IS ANY OBLIGATION TO ENTER INCURRED BY THE STUDENT WHEN SHE FILLS OUT AND RETURNS THE APPLICATION BLANK?

Ans. The filling of the blank imposes no obligation but enables the student to determine her readiness for the work, and also enables the College to advise intelligently, if any added preparation is necessary.

4. HOW CAN AN EARNEST STUDENT, WHO, THROUGH PREVIOUS ILL-HEALTH, OR FROM OTHER CAUSES BEYOND HER CONTROL, HAS BEEN UNABLE TO COVER THE GROUND REQUIRED BY THE COLLEGE, RECEIVE THE BENEFIT OF THE KINDERGARTEN TRAINING, AND USE IT AS A MEANS OF SELF-SUPPORT?

Ans. To advise the student under such circumstances to study the kindergarten with a view of becoming a teacher, would be unkind, since the two classes of kindergartens which offer financial inducements are those connected with public and private schools. In these schools, young women, however good their technical training may be, find it difficult to obtain positions, if their preliminary training has been deficient. In both private and public schools, kindergartners of broad culture are in demand, and in the latter a rigid examination must be passed. The so-called private kindergartens, where the teacher is expected to assume the financial responsibility, rarely pay. Indeed, one is fortunate if she makes her expenses. On the other hand, the kindergartens before mentioned are most desirable, considered from any standpoint. Consequently, in order not to exclude a large class of young women of refinement and intelligence from taking the kindergarten work as a means of livelihood, and also to meet a long felt need, the college opened, last year, a department for kindergarten-trained governesses. The requirements for entering this department are the same as for the teachers, with the exception that a more limited education

will be accepted. There are thousands of homes throughout the country, wherein a young woman of refinement, with a grammar school education, supplemented by a year of kindergarten training, would be most welcome as an assistant to the mother in a home blessed with young children. The financial inducements are quite as great as in the teacher's department and the positions as desirable. One year of training will suffice for this department.

5. WHAT IS THE LENGTH OF THE TEACHER'S COURSE?

Ans. Three years are required for graduation, but the three years need not be taken consecutively. A Freshman certificate is given at the end of the first year, a Junior certificate at the end of the second year, and a diploma at the end of the third year. Many students teach at the end of one or two years, save up their money and return for the Senior year later. One year will fit a student for a position as paid assistant, two years for a position as director, and three years for more responsible positions; namely, for kindergarten work where longer training and experience are required, or, for assistants in connection with kindergarten training classes. An additional year is required of those who expect to take charge of training classes.

6. ARE POSITIONS GUARANTEED?

Ans. By no means. On the contrary the prospect of a position is never held out as any inducement for a student to enter, as more than the equivalent of the amount charged for tuition is given in instruction. At the same time it affords the college great pleasure to help the students to positions, and no time, pains or strength are spared in this direction. The facts are, that with an average attendance of one hundred students annually, the college has never had students enough to fill the positions offered. For the past three years, every available student has been in a position by the early Fall, and the college has had no students to place again until the close of the school year in June. This has been an unique and unrivaled experience in any line of educational work, with which we are acquainted.

7. IS IT NECESSARY TO GIVE ONE'S WHOLE TIME TO THE WORK?

Ans. Yes. The whole aim and purpose of the college is to send out strong women, who are capable of becoming centers of usefulness and influence wherever they may go, and since only women with trained minds are accepted, it is possible to make the course a full one. The college covers, in one year of training, nearly as much ground as is covered in two years in many of the training schools, and expects of its students their entire time for their theoretical and practical work. The forenoons are spent in practice work with the children in different kindergartens throughout the city; the afternoons are given to lecture work.

8. CAN ONE TAKE THE THREE YEARS IN TWO, IF SHE BE QUICK MENTALLY, OR HAS HAD SOME PREVIOUS KINDERGARTEN TRAINING?

Ans. No. The work of each year is a connected whole, and no part is given twice during the year. The work of the entire course is a connected whole, logically developed from the time the student enters until she graduates. Much attention has been given to the correlation of the work that the student may realize what Froebel means and repeatedly emphasizes by the word Unity. It is not possible to take two years in one, since only small margins are left in the work of each year for collateral reading.

9. DOES THE COURSE EMBRACE ANY DRILL IN TEACHING?

Ans. Yes, a great deal. The student, from the day she enters until she graduates, teaches; at first, as a volunteer assistant under an experienced director, who spends some time with her assistants at the close of each morning session in explaining the work to them. An experienced supervisor is also in charge of the kindergartens to AID and SUGGEST to all students. Program and supervising classes alternate weekly throughout the year. In these classes the many practical problems which are met with in the kindergartens are fully discussed. The experience of the older directors in these meetings is most helpful to the newer workers.

10. WILL WORK WHICH HAS BEEN DONE IN PREVIOUS TRAINING SCHOOLS BE ACCEPTED ?

Ans. All work previously taken, which has been logically and satisfactorily done, will be accepted and the student admitted for advanced work.

11. IS A MUSICAL EDUCATION NECESSARY ?

Ans. It is not necessary but very desirable, as good music is an important factor in the kindergarten. The lack on the part of students in this respect is provided for in the instruction given in the college. This department is in charge of a well-known composer of a kindergarten song book, who received her training under the best masters in Europe.

12. WHAT IS THE TUITION ?

Ans. The tuition is one hundred and twenty-five dollars per year, and is kept at the lowest point possible, and offer the advantages which are to be found in the college. All lectures and lessons are included in the tuition fee, while the courses include the most expensive studies and the instruction is given by specialists in every department.

13. WHAT IS THE COST OF MATERIALS AND BOOKS ?

Ans. The cost of the material varies somewhat according to the ideas of the students, but need not exceed ten dollars, and that of the books five dollars, the first year, and a lesser amount for the two following years.

14. IS THERE ANY WAY BY WHICH THE STUDENT CAN PAY HER WAY THROUGH COLLEGE IN WHOLE OR IN PART ?

Ans. The college is sometimes able to furnish positions for students in homes, where the assistance which they can render is considered an equivalent for their living expenses. These positions are not menial in any sense ; the student takes her place as a member of the family. We do not advise this, however, except when necessity compels, as the student should have her entire time for her work. At the end of two years she is permitted to take the public school examination for kindergartners, and if successful in passing, is eligible for a position as a paid assistant in a public school, at a salary of three hundred and fifty dollars per year. As the directors are always chosen from paid assistants already in the school, if one secures a place as a paid assistant, she is almost certain of a position as a director later on. The directors receive fifty dollars per month, for ten months, to begin with, and the salary is increased according to experience and length of service.

15. CAN ONE SECURE A POSITION AT THE END OF ONE YEAR IN THE CITY, IN ORDER TO CONTINUE HER TRAINING ?

Ans. There is always a limited number of positions outside the public schools which are available for students who are taking their training. The rule of the college is the person for the place and not the place for the person ; hence, much depends upon the student herself, for when the position offers, the student is chosen who can most nearly meet the requirements of the place. The majority of those who have entered the college have found it possible to continue in training long enough to take positions as directors.

16. IS THERE A DORMITORY IN CONNECTION WITH THE COLLEGE ?

Ans. While there is no dormitory connected with the college, the officers of the institution always secure a list of homes in different parts of the city, where students can be accommodated at reasonable rates. A personal interest is taken in the locating of every student. Students are met at the train when desired. Students are never sent to large boarding houses or hotels, but homes are secured in private families, frequently two, three or four students boarding together. Board can be secured at all prices, from three dollars per week upwards. The majority of our students do not pay more than five dollars per week when they room alone, and four dollars and a half when two room together.

17. WHAT ARE THE DATES OF THE RE-OPENING AND CLOSING OF THE COLLEGE ?

Ans. The college RE-OPENS SEPTEMBER 6th, 1898, and CLOSES JUNE 3rd, 1899.

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